



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Tetsunori OTAGURO

Serial No.:

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: DRIVE-SECTION-ISOLATED FOUP OPENER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A drive-section-isolated FOUP opener according to claim 1, further comprising a drive section chamber for housing the drive section of said port door horizontal-movement mechanism, the drive section of said sensor horizontal-movement mechanism, and the drive section of said port-door-and-sensor vertical-movement mechanism, and
said drive section chamber including a device for exhausting an atmosphere in said drive section chamber to an exterior of said drive section chamber.

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